



— "Exclusively on expatriate students." ——



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PHRYME MAGAZINE



HEADING NORTH TO

THE CITY of GRONINGEN

The city of Talent, the city of Students;

t first, I did not quite understand what the "hype" was about Groningen, nor did I understand why many students choose to go study there.

Upon visiting my close friends various times in Groningen, I began to understand what it was about the city that attracted them the most – it was truly an international student city.

In my mind, I thought that it was "too far" from main and know cities such as Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and so forth. I, myself, had never been to Groningen before 2015 nor was I planning to live or study there in the future.

Everywhere you would go you could see students and young adults with different nationalities; on a daily basis, you would see people from all over the world, people from China, Germany, Ireland, Peru, Aruba; you name it and Groningen has it!



Why is Groningen such a popular city for students?

Groningen is well known for its universities such as Hanze Hogeschool and Rijksuniveristeit. These two universities are top quality institutions, where sixteen of Hanze's programs are ranked number one in the Netherlands while the Rijksuniversiteit is ranked number eighty-two of the world. Along with those universities, they offer various exchange programs for students from all over the world. One of the benefits of living in Groningen is that it's very close to the German border and there are various busses that go directly from Groningen to Germany; within three hours, you're already in Hamburg!

According to cityoftalent.nl, Groningen has a population of approximately 200.000 inhabitants. One in every fifth person in Groningen is a student, which is what makes Groningen the highest student population density in the Netherlands. Groningen provides its students the possibility to learn about different cultures, traditions and cuisines due to it's high rate of international students.

Upon snooping around and discovering more about the city of talent, I have come to realize why Groningen carries this title – City of Talent. There is something to do for everyone in Groningen. For example, if you like art or poetry, there are various café's that hosts poetry nights once or twice a week. If you like dancing, you can sign up for dance classes. Let's not forget about the amazing nightlife where bars are allowed to be open 24/7, talk about the city that never sleeps!

Before closing the journey of this wonderful city, I highly recommend you to go visit some of the many astonishing

attractions that Groningen has to offer:

- In Bedum you can visit the tower in Europe that leans the most; The 12th century tower of Walfridus rises nearly 120 feet over the northern Dutch town of Bedum, but leans 8ft 6 inches to one side;
- In Hunebed you can visit the outdoor museum with Megalithic tombs;
- Every year in august, the Europe's largest studentevent is organized for new international (and national) students, the KEI-WEEK;
- In the middle of the city, De Drie Gezusters has 20 diffrent bars within the same building, making it the largest bar in Europe;
- And last, but not least, the greenest municipality - Haren.

To conclude, Groningen is really an amazing and different city because of its huge population of international students, which makes it a perfect place to learn more about the different cultures from all over the world. Above all, Groningen is the #1 student city, #1 in education, #1 as the "Happiest City" in Europe as of 2013 and #1 Bicycle city. Groningen is really on top of everything, what else could you ask for? As you've read this article, I hope to have convinced you to visit the wonderful province of Groningen and discover all that it has to offer, I hope to see you soon!





emal E. le Grand is twenty-three-year-old student-athlete at Florida State University [FSU], he is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs and two minors in Business and Entrepreneurship. His hobbies include poker, reading about business and ping-pong. He is, also, a strong believer of "The Law of Attraction," with a passion for making an impact in peoples' lives and being successful in anything he set his mind to.

Jemal is a team member of Stingray Swimming in Aruba and in 2007, at age 13, he started swimming competitively for Aruba's national team.

He took part in his first international competition in 2009 at the Central American and Caribbean Championship [CCCAN] in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. "I was 14 years old, so I was pretty open minded with the possibility of medaling." His open-mindedness benefitted him as he placed first in the 100 freestyle with a time of 53.09 which, at the time, set the new Aruban age-group record. He quickly learned that there was definitely more competition in the central American region than the Caribbean.

"I remember vividly when I saw Michael Phelps winning his 8th gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympic games and made history."

This filled Jemal with drive and determination to get on route and prepare for the 2012 London Olympic games, he looked into the mirror and told himself, "I will make the next Olympic games no matter what." That is, also, when his parents introduced, and explained, to him, "The Law of Attraction."

A vague talk with his father and a jokingly conversation with a friend became reality when Jemal decided to move to the U.S. in August of 2011 to practice for the Olympics. "I didn't think my dad was actually serious [until] he started doing research and got in contact with Coach Alex Pussieldi in Davie, Florida." It was in February of 2011 when Jemal made the life-changing decision to swim and study in the U.S.

After being awarded the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship, Jemal attended Sagemont High-School in Weston, Florida and trained with The Davie Nadadores under head coach Alexandre Pussieldi. His main focus was to improve his swimming and to be able to participate in the upcoming 2012 Olympic games in London. That vision, attraction and dream, that Jemal had since 2008, became a reality when Jemal, a senior in high-school, flew to London for his first time to participate in the Olympic games.

How was your performance at the Olympics?

My performance was my best to date! At that time, I set the new Aruban age group record at 51.86 seconds in the 100 Freestyle. I walked away knowing that I gave it my all for my country of Aruba.

What is the most important lesson you have learned from the Olympics?

That dreams do come true when you work hard. Being able to see so many Olympians happy at their first Olympic games truly made me feel blessed to call myself an Olympic Athlete.

Today, Jemal recalls his time at the 2012 Olympics in london as the accomplishment he is the proudest of,



"The most important thing swimming taught me was discipline."



"My biggest accomplishment was making the Aruban Olympic team in 2012, and having the privilege to walk into the stadium with the Aruban flag."

Jemal admits that he did not get into FSU academically but was able to get admitted to FSU through his sport. Now, with only a semester left to graduate with his Bachelor's degree, Jemal has learned how to be comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Did you face any challenges?

My GPA was too low to get into the Business degree. I had to switch programs and got into International Affairs. I don't regret the switch.

What has been an unforgettable experience?

Definitely the Swimming & Diving banquet in early 2017; I was awarded, "The Hardest Worker," award; not only in the pool, but also by impacting my teammates in a positive way.

Jemal looks up to Michael Phelps, who gave him the drive and determination to pursue his Olympic dream. He, also, looks up to Cullen Jones, who made him believe that the swimming sport is not only lim-

ited to Caucasian swimmers. Jemal says that his favorite, and main, stroke is Freestyle because, "It's one of those strokes that you must pay very close attention to detail; otherwise it can drop your time drastically."

His advice to swimmers is, "You might have to make sacrifices that others won't understand in the beginning but, if you truly believe in your dreams – let no one stop you! Ask for help, advice and finally, "Dream, Believe and Achieve." The Law of Attraction is stronger than you think."

Now, Jemal is preparing for multiple upcoming swimming competitions; mainly the CCCAN in Trinidad and Tobago. He hopes to graduate with his MBA within the upcoming five years and to follow a professional path in the world of business, whether it's opening his own company or franchise within the U.S.

When asked Jemal what the future holds for him, he stated, "A life full of success through diverse experiences and great connections with powerful individuals." Jemal is a firm believer of the famous quote, "Everything happens for a reason," and lives his daily life with such mentality.

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HONOURS PROGRAMME STUDENT, ENDRICK LEON'S

TRAV.EL experience.

Prior to moving to the Netherlands, I set a goal that I would like to travel to as many countries as possible during my studies.

or the first few months I was conversing with friends on where we could travel together. Unfortunately, months have passed and their enthusiasm was not there; that's when I decided to start traveling solo.

For my first trip, I decided to visit Antwerp and Brussels in Belgium. It was my first time traveling alone, so I had weeks of planning. I definitely did not want to stay outside of the city, but hotels were expensive! I started to search for the prices of hostels; these were very cheap in comparisons to hotels. Of course, I was skeptical of staying

in a hostel because I would need to share a room and the facilities with strangers. However, I hoped for the best and decided to give it a try. I arrived by bus in Antwerpen, which was also my first time travelling to another country by bus. Although busses take longer to reach the destination, they are very cheap and comfortable.

When I arrived to the hostel it was quite empty and luckily, I had my own room! I stored my over-packed luggage and headed to the city to explore. It was great, I had met with other solo travelers and was able to hear their experiences and tips. I

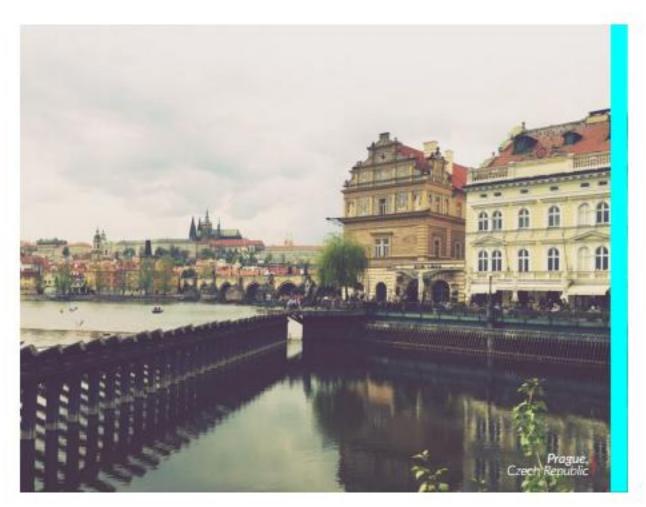
had no problem while exploring the city, but always kept a central spot in case I forgot my way. When I was in Belgium, I saw a great deal to travel with the train to Luxembourg for a day, which I decided to take. Ultimately, my first experience with hostels and solo travel went without a problem and so I decided to continue.

AfterBelgium, Ivisited many other European cities. One of them being Prague, the capital and largest city of Czech Republic, which is my favorite city so far because it's beautiful, cheap and has a great atmosphere. I also traveled to Munich in Germany. There, I had stayed three days and visited the German Alps in Southern Bavaria, where I took a trip to the Neuschwanstein Castle. After Munich, I decided to visit another German city; Hamburg and the Christmas markets in Düsseldorf and Oberhausen and of course, I visited Paris and London as well!

I prefer to travel around Europe during Winter and Spring because Summer, to me, can get overcrowded. However, during the summer I had one of the greatest experiences in Tanzania for three weeks. It was a completely different culture with different circumstances where I had to learn how to adapt to the country. Going on the Safari in the National park gave me a breath-taking nostalgic feeling. It was great!

For my return trip after Tanzania, I arranged a stopover of 15 hours in Dubai, where I visited the Dubai Mall and the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.



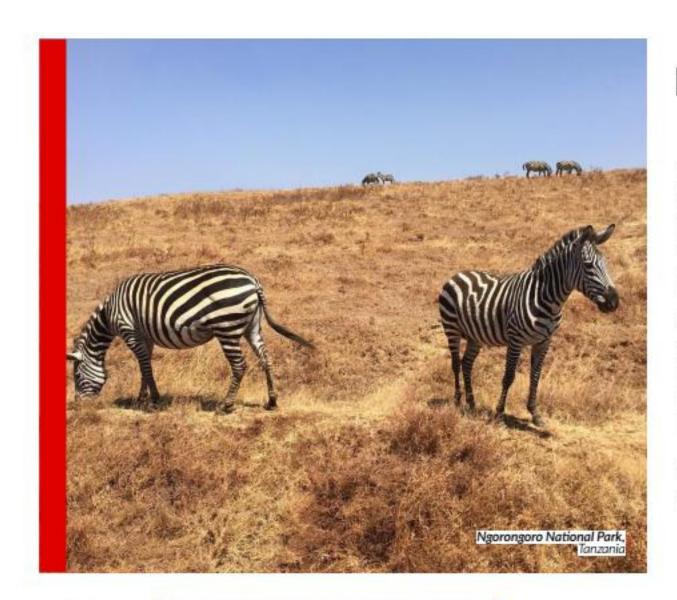






There's plenty of options and considerations when traveling alone: what to eat; what activities to do; how to plan the days, etc. I believe the sense of freedom is a great thing to embrace. Traveling with friends or family will often cause you to adapt to suit others, in terms of what to do and where to visit. With solo travel, the ability to be selfish and do what you really want to do is wonderfully liberating. This is the reason I travel solo.





Summer is great to travel because of the whether, however there's the large crowds. Look up the peak- and off- seasons of the countries you would like to visit. Traveling in the off-seasons will often be cheaper and get you better service everywhere.

TRAVEL TO NOT-ON-THE-EURO COUNTRIES.

To save money, visit countries that still retain their own currency. Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary for example are fascinating countries with amazing architecture and their own unique story to tell, and most of the time tend to be less costly.

PLAN AHEAD.

When it comes to booking tickets, you can either book months in advance or purchase last-minute. Both methods have their advantages and disadvantages, when buying ahead there's a risk that you might not be able to travel anymore due to life circumstances. However, waiting for the, "Last-minute deal," can risk having flights fully booked. One useful tool to use is the, "Skyscanner Price Alert," where you enter the destination you are interested in traveling to and receive alerts whenever prices change. Very useful!

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION.

Flight tickets are not always cheap, consider alternative transportation can help you save hundreds for trip. There are many options to choose from when traveling around Europe. An example is traveling by train via Rail Europe, it connects the trains you need to reach your destination at the lowest price. Another option is traveling by bus with companies such as Flixbus, that offer low price travel to many European cities. Traveling by bus may take longer, but it's cheaper and comfortable! Consider taking a night bus and sleep on the ride - you will reach your destination well-rested! If you do not mind traveling with strangers, ride sharing options are also becoming popular.

BE OPEN MINDED ABOUT ACCOMMODATION.

Staying in a luxurious hotel may seem nice, but for a student it can be unaffordable. There are many hostels and bed & breakfasts which are cheap and cozy. Sharing a room with multiple travelers is not as bad as many people might think, it can be a great experience where you meet adventurous travelers. Hostels are also owned by locals, which can share with you all the local hot spots.

PACK SMART.

Do not over-pack! Packing light can help you save on flights, as you can just bring a free hand baggage. Strolling around with a heavy luggage is no fun and will tire you out quickly. Also, remember to take travel size toiletries, this will save you luggage space and not hinder at the security check at the airport.

Once you are at your destination, it's time to start exploring! Taxis can be very expensive to get around. Public transport is a very cheap alternative, however these can be unreliable. Commuting by foot is the best way to explore your surroundings and appreciate its beauty.

Famous food items are often cheaper at local market stalls than in restaurants. Check out local areas for food markets or festivals to get cheap meals. Instead of eating one big meal, try having small portions of different items, this allows you to try more food, often for less money.

Most museums, tourist attractions and even transport options have discounted prices for students. Carry your card and find out student prices before paying normal costs. Getting an International Student Identity Card (ISIC) grants you access to discounts in over 130 countries.



DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME BEHIND A CAMERA.

Of course, you want to take as many pictures of the places you have been to. However, do not spend too much time taking pictures and on social media while you can admire the beauty of your destination. Remember, traveling is about the experience and memories!



VIDEOS; PHOTOS; FRIENDS AND LOSING HIS, PERFECT MATCH.

air grew up in Pos Chikito, Aruba, and graduated Colegio E.P.I. Hospitality and Tourism in mid-2016. He has moved to Arnhem, the Netherlands, in early-2016 and is studying International Business Management Studies [IBMS] at the Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen [HAN University of Applied Science].

1

Making the decision to move to the Netherlands is not easy for most students. However, Jair had an extra weight on his shoulders; his father was going through the final stages of Colon Cancer, "We

knew it was a ticking time bomb," as he explained that just before he made the decision to move to the Netherlands, Jair's father illness has

gotten a lot worse.

After his father reassured him, Jair decided to move to the city of Arnhem. Today, he reflects back to this decision and doesn't consider it selfish, "I wanted my father to be able to see me pursuing my dreams and knowing that I am trying to make it. I was making him proud by doing something wanted to achieve." His father always wanted him to do better than he did, to achieve his dreams and to be happy.

He started to work at the age of fourteen at his parents' company, The Party Animals Aruba, known in Aruba for providing entertainment and supplies at parties. His father, Fernando Frank, would take pictures of the parties and post them on their website. As a result, Jair began doing photography. However, it didn't work out for him as he stated, "I

didn't understand pictures. However, making videos is my hobby; I really love it. There's more action, detail and script. I listen and analyze everything about the videos I make – which I want people to eventually understand when they watch

my videos."

Jair grew a passion for videos at the age of sixteen; he made his first video storyline and then filmed it. However, due to his lack of knowledge in video editing, he asked a friend for help, "She was able to fit the

videos perfectly together; telling the exact story I had in mind but couldn't make a reality. That's where my curiosity for videos grew stronger."

where my curiosity for videos grew stronger."

Five years later and Jair had developed a skill for video editing. He started vlogging

Jair had developed a skill for video editing. He started vlogging for the Gym he was attending in Aruba and made a Facebook page called, "Nooby," where he showcased his videos by promoting the Gym classes.



What keeps me motivated is the promise I made to myself; to have my own businesses by the time I'm thirty-I cannot let myself down.

Arnhem, the Netherlands Jair is the first of his family to move abroad and pursue a higher education and believes that, by just taking this step, he has made his parents proud and happy. Unfortunately, after five years of battling with Colon Cancer, his father passed away in October 2016,

> "That was the most difficult period of my life. I took a month break and had to return to the Netherlands. It affected me a lot, I got depressed, but I've been coping and focusing my energy in pursuing my dreams."

Jair mentioned that his father supported him fully in his decision to move to the Netherlands,

> "My father was happy for me, but was also worried because I was never on my own. He gave me advices that I think about every day."

Jair's describes his relationship with his father as, "Different," they bonded a lot when it came to setting personal goals and dreams. When it came to videography, cameras and ideas his father was his,





"Perfect match." Especially in the last three years when they spend a lot of time making videos together; Jair has a lot of footage of his father that he plans to work on when the time is right, "I felt like I could be myself around my father. He never judged or tried to control me; he would tell me to do what made me happy."

When Jair is feeling down, he plays a video he had filmed just before his father passed away, "The video is about me interviewing my father. He talks about different aspects of his life growing up, things he went through and gives my family advice. He is not here, but I could always listen to the words he had to say. It's like having him here with me."

Being the only son, Jair feels that he has a lot of eyes on him. Especially with the impact his father had on the island of Aruba, "The challenge is not living up to the expectations, but setting the bar higher for myself. It's not a competition, but more-so learning how I can become better to make him proud. I sometimes don't think I can do it, but I'm trying."

Now in the Netherlands, he is focused on making videos. He was given the opportunity to produce videos for his school! Videos ranging from promoting the events HAN organizes while, also, vlogging about how it's like to be a student at the HAN. When asked Jair about his experience in



Arnhem he stated, "It's awesome at times. But it's very lonely; you're on your own with no one to motivate you and keep you focused. It's just you and yourself." When asked if he would be interested in taking over his parents' company he stated that, "If the opportunity presents itself, I would be more than happy to!" However, it's hard to say what the future holds for The Party Animals Aruba because unfortunately, his family had to sell everything but the name of the company in order to pay for the Cancer treatments of his father.

Jair mentioned that he talks with his mother and sisters a lot. However, he would rather not share his personal struggles with them, "I feel like I have to be the strongest one for my family; I promised my father that I would not cry at his funeral when he asked me not to; he wanted to be there for my mother and sisters."

One thing that bothers him till this date was not being able to accomplish his father's last wishes – to pass away at home, "He had taken a lot of morphine for his pain and was not permitted to leave the hospital because he needed to be treated. I tried to calm him down by promising him that I would find a way to take him home in the morning, but was unable to."

Jair has to adapt and get used to life without his father, "The new normal," as his mother calls it. His mother taught him that life is always changing and no matter the circumstances to just keep adapting every day,

> "I like having my own structure of living; being independent. I feel free to reinvent myself and reach endless possibilities while exploring my ideas."





y name is Aïshyta Qhiarra Sichtman and I'm nineteen years of age. I'd describe myself as a very social person, someone who's always ready to lend a hand wherever it's needed. I suppose that my study choice suits me well; I recently graduated with an Associate of Science Degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management at Colegio E.P.I. Hospitality and Tourism in Aruba. For the final year, we have to do an internship in an area of our choice for four months.

I am someone who doesn't pass up on a chance to live abroad and the opportunity to learn new things. I mean, living and working in a hotel is a, "helluva," learning experience! For me, it all started in October of 2016, when I got the opportunity to do my four-month internship in a lovely, history-filled, storybook looking, city of Bruges, Belgium. I chose to do my internship in the Rooms Division department in a small hotel in the city center of Bruges.

Don't worry, this will get interesting; telling you how to make a bed and a reservation is definitely not why I want you to read about my experience. I'll give you a summary of the most memorable experiences I've had during my four months of internship.

I had a roommate whom I didn't click with for the first two months I called her #Blanquita and I'm not a shady person but she legit fit all the stereotypes of a Dutch per-



son; she only showered once a week, she would wake up, pop a gum in her mouth and go on with her day. Her cooking? Terrible, bland, to say it in a nice way. Most of her cooking consisted of just potatoes.

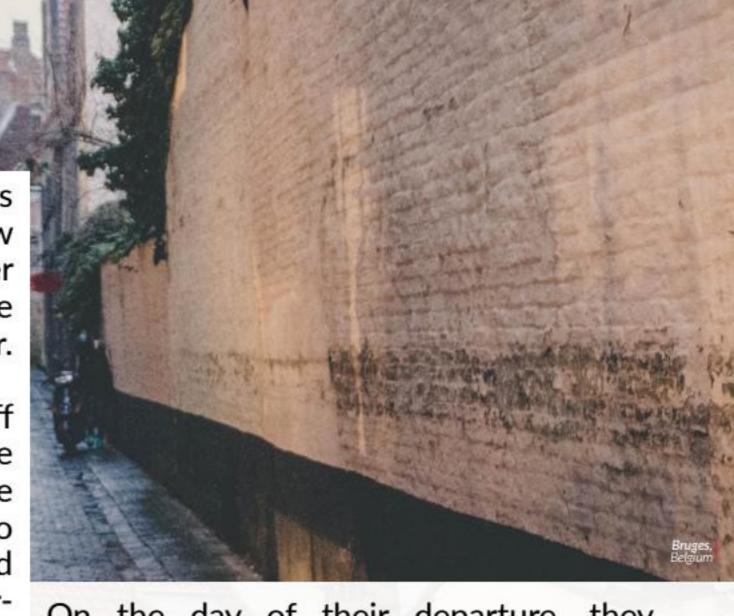
One day, #Blanquita decided to cook a meal that's very popular to me. Ps. I am Aruban, Surinamese and Chinese. When the meal was done, as a multicultural person, I felt so ashamed. I mean, back in the day, the Dutch have invad-

ed many counties for herbs & spices and, to this day, they don't know how to use them? #Escandalo. To recover from it all, I decided to cook the same dish the next day and it was spectacular.

Two months have passed and a new staff member was introduced - let's call her the #Boss-Lady. At first, it all went well; she made adaptations to bring structure to the work environment. I mean, great and all, just keep your paws out of my personal belongings. That wasn't the case though; later during the month she started to check our rooms without notice and complained if just a bed was unmade. I've had enough of it, so I started leaving my vibrator on my drawers because no one gets to touch my stuff! That worked, she eventually stopped snooping in our room. The reason? Not too sure, but oh well.



On a happier note, in my third month I've met a sweet Canadian couple who was staying at the hotel. They were very sweet; greeting me, asking about my day and being genuinely nice people. As a result to their kindness, I would bring complimentary coffee and tea to their room. The smiles on their faces were the highlight of my day.



On the day of their departure, they brought a pair of beautiful bracelets and thanked me for the hospitality. Later on TripAdvisor they left a review containing my name, seeing my name on TripAdvisor felt like receiving a Grammy. #Blessed

I realized that people in Belgium can be racist. Yes, racism is everywhere, crazy huh? However, in Belgium, it's a special kind of racism because when they use the word, "Nigga," to describe a person of color, they turn around and tell them, "Sorry," - no comment. #SorryNotSorry



All in all, you should always push yourself out of your comfort zone. Be open for new experiences and memories, most of the people you'll meet during your journey will definitely make everything worth the move.



Darwin WINKLAAR

arwin Winklaar is a twentytwo-year-old who inspires to become one of Aruba's most influential artists. He is currently enrolled at The Gerrit Rietveld [GRA]; a well-known university of Applied Science for Fine Arts & Design in Amsterdam. From a young age, he has always worked hard to build connections with a name for himself in Aruba and now is more than ready to take over Europe. Darwin was only thirteen when he made his first self-made male clothing collection, with an emotional inspiration behind it all: his parents.

Not so glittery start...

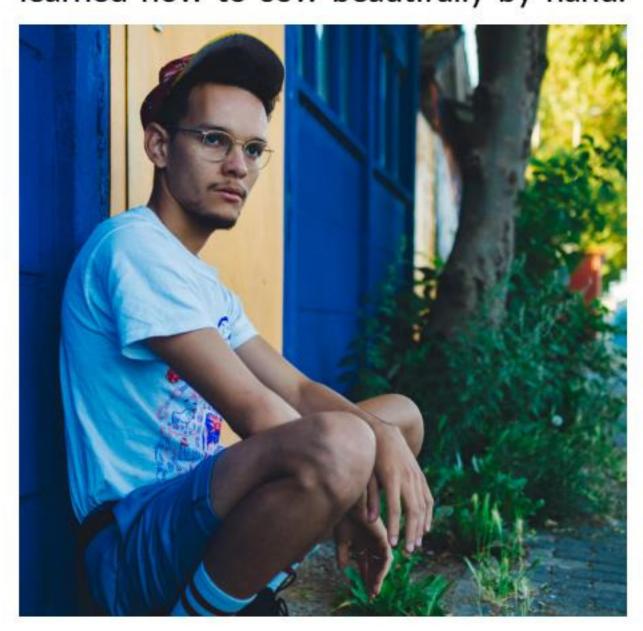
Darwin got emotional when asked to share his childhood. Being one of six-brothers, Darwin said, "My mother was the princess in the house." Darwin described that they, "Didn't have much, but [had] enough to live happily." Darwin, being just ten-years-old, recalls the moment his father left them in a hard and painful situation, "My mother never worked, my father was the one responsible to bring money home." The abandonment of his father was emotionally hard for them, but leaving them in such a financial trouble was hard on his

mother, "I remember my mother crying to the point of depression," says Darwin.

Just like many other women, the mother of Darwin took on herself the responsibility to move forward with her six kids, working hard to make sure they had food on the table. Regardless of not having a father-figure at home, Darwin describes his childhood as the best time of his life, "I'm forever grateful to both my mother and grandmother," he says.

First steps and piece..

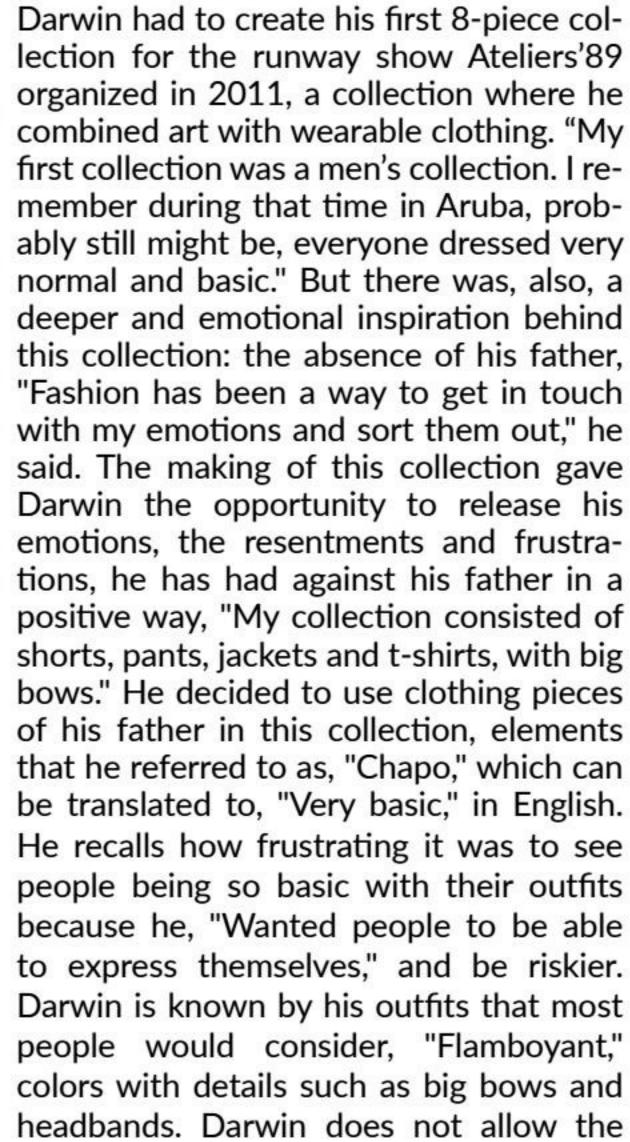
Darwin was raised in a creative family; his mother and grandmother used to always be busy creating new decoration pieces for parties and home decor. Therefore, Darwin developed an interest in arts which led him to create clothes for his mothers' Barbie dolls during his childhood. Without a father figure, Darwin got himself interested in the activities and hobbies of his mother. At first, it was just a hobby for him which he didn't take seriously. However, in high-school during Arts & Crafts classes, he had discovered how good and interested he truly was. Since then, following his mothers' footsteps, he learned how to sow beautifully by hand.



Atelier '89

Atelier'89 is known in Aruba for providing workshops by local and international artists. These workshops range from working with ceramic, lighting installation, fashion and other types of art. Darwin made sure to educate himself about the fashion industry by attending multiple workshops at 'Ateliers '89 from the artist Elvis Lopez in Aruba. Via these workshops is where he started to develop more of his abilities and his point of view of fashion.

I would describe myself as genuinely humble, I'm always excited for what comes, determined, very positive, super friendly, outgoing and I try to bright other peoples' day. That doesn't mean I don't have a tough side, but normally I choose to wake up and make the best of the day.



mean comments of others affect him, he has always used fashion to express himself, "It made me who I am today!"

"I continue attending school just as a safety net..."

After graduating E.P.B. in Aruba, class of 2010, Darwin thought that the general education was a waste of his time. He had his mind made up and, with his mother's blessing, made the decision to pursue an education in fashion. The road wasn't easy for him, Darwin was a 22-year-old with a VMBO-Diploma. Luckily, with five years of experience at Atelier'89 in Aruba, he was able to prove to the Admission's Department at the GRA that he had everything it took as an artist to be able to attend GRA.

"I was intimidated and nervous; seeing all the other potential candidates made me feel insecure. I started to overthink whether my [art] pieces were good enough to get in."

The Gerrit Rictveld Academy, NL

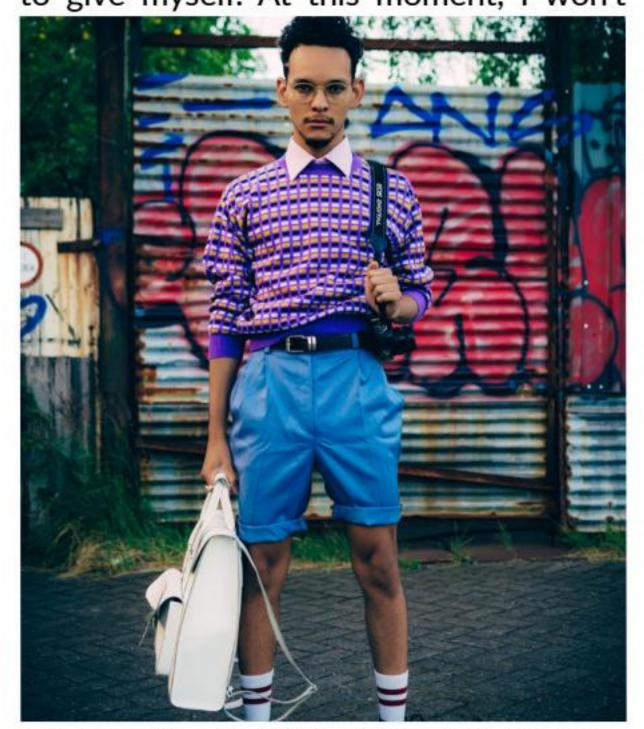
After getting multiple advice and encouragement from local artists in Amsterdam; Darwin decided to try his luck and sign up for The Gerrit Rietveld Academy. "GRA wants to see how diverse of an artist you are, you need to be able to stand out," and stand out he did, his diverse portfolio, which he had been working on since attending workshops at Atelier '89 in Aruba, gave him the opportunity to show his creativity in different kinds of Art.



"I'm glad that I came to the Netherlands, Europeans are open-minded and have a diverse idea of what art is – [they are] ready to experiment."

Leaving the label in the past..

During the first year of GRA, which they call the, "Basic year," Darwin has not gotten the opportunity to do anything with fashion clothing. The school wants their students to experiment with all forms of art, including, but not limited to, sculpture, glass, plastic and wood. GRA wants to make sure that their students get out of their comfort zone and to help them renovate themselves as an artist. Darwin used to have a lot of insecurities as an artist while living in Aruba. However, he says that now he is more open-minded, "As an artist, I don't know what label to give myself. At this moment, I won't



call myself a fashion designer." He continues, "Of course, I will [continue to] make clothes, but they won't be the type of clothes you see every day on the streets." However, to describe who he is at this moment as an artist is hard, "The basic year is there to basically rip you apart, to break your artist identity and build up a better version of yourself," he says, "You never know what path your art will lead you on. So, no... I won't label myself as a fashion designer anymore".



One of the toughest questions Darwin had to answer was whether or not he sees himself going back to Aruba after graduation, "It's hard," he said, "I miss my family a lot." However, he feels that he cannot go back and live in Aruba because, for his kind of work, Aruba is very limited.



"I don't see myself going back to live in that box," he said. He has learned and discovered a lot about materials that he has never seen in Aruba before When asked how he sees himself in ten years, "I see myself continuously expressing my emotions through art," he said. He doesn't want to forget where he came from; he has been through a lot and is grateful for all of the lessons he has learned, "I don't want ego to influence who I will become." Darwin dreams about eventually going back to Aruba and giving back to the community, stating, "I want to be like the people who believed in me." He wants to be able to give workshops, to show his collections and exhibitions, to be able to inspire the youth and teach them that, "It's okay to express yourself, regardless of your gender".



Un perspectiva nobo saludando nos dushi Aruba, #GlendvLive









DEFINE PRIME:

noun

- The state or time of greatest vigor or success in a person's life. "You're in the prime of life."
- The beginning of something. "The prime of the world."



HOW DID THE THREE OF YOU MEET?

J: We met in the Youth Parliament of Aruba [YPA]. I became a member in 2012 while they were already members.

Z: Lorenzo and I met at the debate for the first Youth Minister of Environment in 2008; both of us participated and became a member in 2009.

HOW DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS?

J: At first, Lorenzo and I became friends rather fast while in YPA. I became friends with Zoe after a few years, she is someone who really separated the organization and her personal life.

HAVE YOU WORKED TOGETHER?

L: Yes, we've worked on projects together for the organizations we were members of. We used to be in common committees and even got to be in the board together.

Z: We've known each other professionally for a few years and we know we have the ability to do projects together.

WHEN DID THE IDEA START?

Z: It first started in January 2016 – I was brainstorming for projects Jose and I can

start together, something that involved our knowledge and skills, where we didn't have to depend on anyone. I had approached Jose with the idea, but he didn't like it. It's not until Lorenzo came to the Netherlands in August of 2016 where we actually decided to make Phryme a reality.

• WHY THE NAME PHRYME?

Z: After much deliberation, we wanted something that would describe the participants included in the magazine. The correct written form is "Prime," and the definition is the state we believe the students included in the magazine are currently in, their, "Prime time." The form of writing is our added twist to the word.

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

L: The goal is to provide students who are studying abroad with a publication where they can share their experience beyond school; whether they are doing a sport, a hobby, etc. We want to provide stories of students; usually when it comes to bursalen, there's a big happening at the airport but many people don't hear from the students for 5 to 10 years, if they even do.

WHAT PAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERI-ENCES DO YOU HAVE?

J: [Laughs] Where to begin? We were individually involved in many organizations, but together we were part of two. These organizations provided us with experiences where, from a young age, we learned how to handle responsibilities, accomplish certain tasks and obligations, organization skills, money- and time management, etc. Those qualifications and skills that we've acquired in those years is what we will apply once again. Like Zoe said, we looked at the personal skills and capabilities we possess in order to make Phryme.

 HOW WILL PHRYME BE DIF-FEREN THAN OTHER ARU-BA MAGAZINES?

J: Aruba magazines focus a lot on adults, events and the social life. Phryme's goal is completely different – providing stories on Aruba students studying abroad. Also, being completely free online.

Z: Starting with ourselves – we're students providing information and stories on current students.

The publication, interviews and articles are made by ourselves and staff members, who have remarkable skills.

L: And more importantly, the content we focus on. We want to provide factual information and stories that students will be able to learn from before they move away.

• HOW WILL PHRYME ADAPT TO THE COMMUNITY OF ARUBA?

L: First, we are not going to focus on printing the magazine. Instead, it will be available digitally as an online magazine publication. Second, the English language; we must accept that English is an interna-

tional language; people communicate in English worldwide and we want the magazine to be readable by a broader audience.

WILL PHRYME MAGAZINE BE OB-TAINABLE IN ARUBA?

J: Not currently, our main platform to showcase the magazine is digitally. That's also why it's in English and students living outside of Aruba will be included; with the aim of sharing their life experiences with their friends, family and others.

L: When students move abroad, they get to know a lot of people from all around the world. We want to be able to offer a magazine that these people will be able to read.

IT'S YOUR

Z: We know that the English language is something that might be taken negative-

ly at first. However, we hope people understand that not only do we wish to provide the publication to the community of Aruba; but also, like Jose & Lorenzo said, to their friends, family and people they meet around the world – in a language widely understood.

WHAT SECTIONS CAN PEO-PLE EXPECT IN PHRYME MAGAZINE?

Z: We're not going to focus on sections, but on the stories we wish to share. Right now we included a lot of people from the Netherlands – but that's not the idea. We hope that future issues can include the stories from expatriate students from Aruba who are studying all over the world.

J: A lot of times information regarding the, "Bursalen," come from official departments in Aruba. I believe it's the first time students will be offered information from a student's perspective – without sugar-coating the story.

HOW WILL YOU MAKE THE MAGA-ZINE ATTRACTIVE TO READ?

J: We want to have a clean, modern, simple and young layout. Where it's easy and attractive to read, not where people think it's too much to read.

WHERE DO YOU SEE PHRYME MAG-AZINE IN FIVE YEARS?

Z: We want to focus on making Phryme a stable magazine, with a dependable team and a good structure. Hopefully we'll be able to provide as much information regarding the expatriate students from Aruba as possible and Phryme will be a name recognized throughout Aruba. Also, students will be able to think of their, "Prime time," and do something.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR ANY NEGA-TIVE COMMENTS YOU MIGHT GET?

J: We're aware people might have a lot of negative comments regarding the chosen language. Every decision we've made as a team has a reason, when it comes to the name, the layout and the language.

L: We can have the best product and there will always be closed-minded people who have critiques. We're open for constructive criticism where it allows us to learn and grow.

Z: We have worked with various other

people in the past; we know how to take positive and negative feedback and we also know that the community of Aruba is not always accepting of new products, especially not those in English. However, everything has been thought to perfection and we hope that the participants and the community will be able to learn to love it.

• WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS?

J: It's okay to make mistakes, to fall to your lowest and to move forward. My first year didn't go as I planned. However, this year I am very satisfied with how things are going – don't beat yourself up for things that went less well.

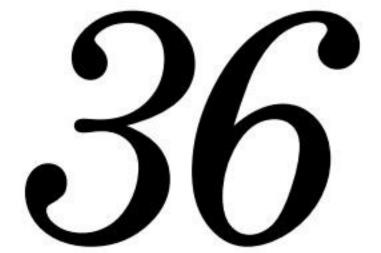
L: I would tell a future student to have an open mind. Don't have any expectations, especially if you didn't live abroad on your own before. For actual students, enjoy these moments in your life. It's important to have school as priority but do not forget, like the name of the magazine states, "It's your prime time," it's important to do everything, explore life and enjoy these moments.

Z: I would advise students to do their research and do what makes them happy.





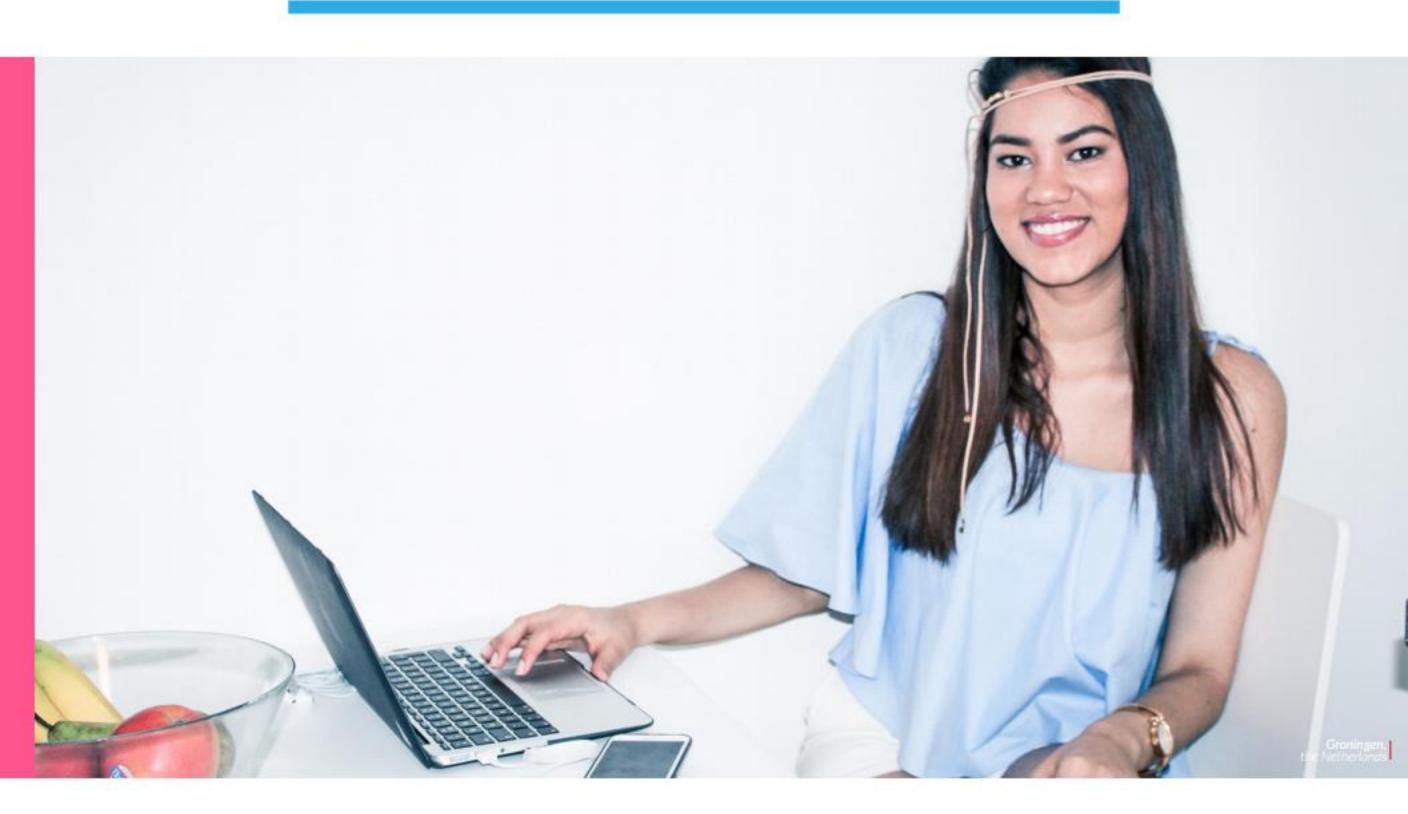
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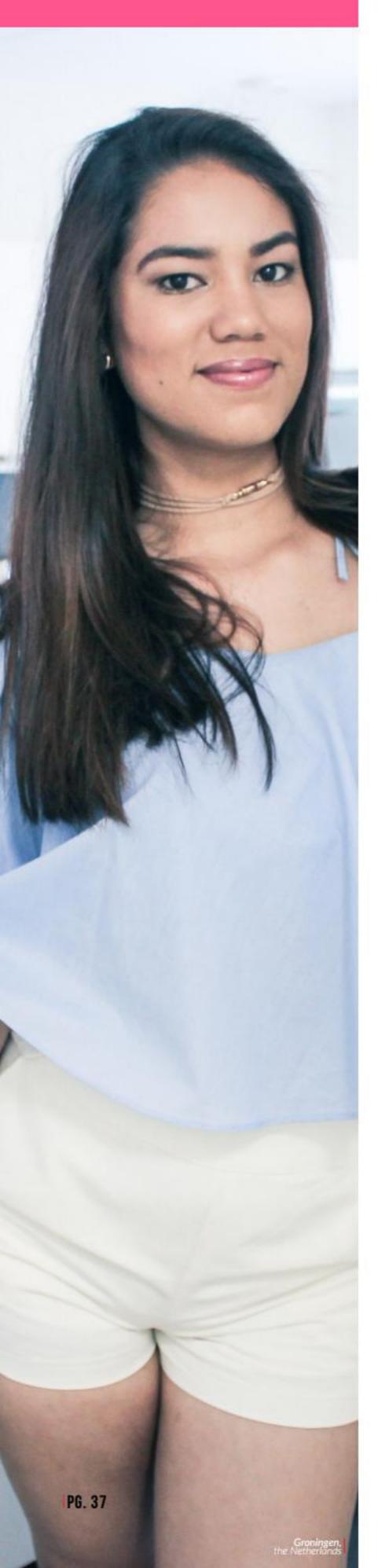




Chest Elopstok

- Name: Chestety Christy Loopstok | Birthdate: 20 December 1994 | Education: Speech Therapy
 - University: Windesheim University of Applied Sciences | City: Groningen, the Netherlands •





- · Childhood nicknames: Te, Tety or Ches.
- Her celebrity crush is Taraji P. Henson.
- She definitely prefers a burger- instead of a hotdog- sandwich!
- While in Aruba, a lot of her time was spent to her favorite hobby; soccer.
- Guilty pleasure? Late-night session with Domino's pizza, extra cheese and Oreo!
- Her current jam is, "Any song on the top Latino playlist."
- She would be a gold color in a box full of Crayons because she would, "Shine amongst the rest."
- Her favorite 90's jam would definitely be a Spanish one!
- If she had the opportunity to become an animal, she would become a Dolphin because, "They're considered one of the smartest animals on Earth."
- Her favorite piece of clothing is a pair of Denim jeans - hands down!
- She believes education is the key towards world solutions; mainly poverty.
- Something most people don't know is that she loves to watch crime stories and unsolved mysteries.
- If she was given an elephant as a pet; she would put the elephant in her backyard and take a lot of pictures together.
- Although this is probably cliché, Ches would not change anything about her life as she says, "Everything, whether good or bad, is a lesson learned."
- People who fight for what they want in life inspires her.
- In 10 years she would like to see herself as, "A speech therapist; hopefully married with children."
- If she could give an advice to her 15-yearold self it would be, "Don't be afraid to make mistakes, not everything in life goes as planned."
- Her other half is a, "Happy person who loves to make jokes, eat, dance and is playful. He should also know how to be serious when it's time for business."



JOSH CALDETZON

- Name: Joshua Alexander Calderón | Birthdate: 21 December 1996 | Education: Spanish Education
 - University: Fontys University of Applied Sciences | City: Tilburg, the Netherlands •

I've come to the realization that life isn't just beautiful, it's also really funny. Especially when you have good friends, good wine and awkward dates.

- His childhood nickname used to be Joshi; he now thinks it's weird.
- His celebrity crush is Zachary Quinto!
- He doesn't like hotdogs or burgers; he prefers chicken sandwiches instead.
- He is a pretty good cook! He enjoys writing, believes it's therapeutic and that it makes him feel like Carrie Bradsaw! He even has a private blog where he writes about the people he has gone out with; details he would never personally speak about!
- He has a few close friends who are very dear to him and are all unquie in their own way. However, one thing they all have in common is a sense of humor.
- His favorite color is green. However, if he had to choose a color in the Crayon box it would be white as it's rarely used.
- His 90's jam is, "Summer of '69" by Bryan Adams.
- His favorite piece of clothing is a pair of black jeans that he only wears during winter.
- If he could change one thing in the world, it would be to end war. He says it's heartbreaking and makes him speechless; especially the recent Manchester attack.
- The craziest rumor he has heard about himself was during highschool. People claimed that he had sex with one of his straight guy friend who had a girlfriend. Although the rumor didn't affect him, he says it's not fair to his friend and that it never happend!
- He loves penguins and believes it would be, "Weird and awesome," to eat Sushi together in a Mexican resturant with the penguin wearing a sombrero.
- If he could be a fruit, it would be lime because they're, "Green and small." He likes, "Limeonade" — it's like lemonade, instead with limes.
- If he could change one thing in life it would be to have more time to dedicate to traveling and his friends.
- He is inspired by the drive to inspire. He gets inspiration to write his blog by asking himself the question, "How can I write my daily experiences in a way that it can be a lesson to others?"
- He has no regrets for his 15-year-old self as he made the best out of it! However, if he could go back in time, he would tell himself to not feel so entitled.
- Braise yourselves for a cliché Josh! He considers himself to be, "Definitely blessed!" his mind usually wanders and he realizes that he truly has nothing to complain about; he has good people around him who showers him with good energy and love.
- He thinks there should be a reality show for Aruba students in the Netherlands! "Stress, dating and drama. It would be so funny, just picture it!" he says.





Huntu

BRINGING DUTCH-CARIBBEAN STUDENTS CLOSER TOGETHER

an Huntu is an association at Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen [HAN]. The association is led by Caribbean students who are attending HAN. They have been organizing social activities for students in Arnhem and Nijmegen since 2013. "Huntu," means, "[Being] together," in Papiamentu, and that is exactly what the association strives to achieve.

OBJECTIVES

The association strives to provide guidance and support for all Dutch-Caribbean student that are currently studying in Arnhem or Nijmegen. Ank Greijmans, the project coordinator of Han Huntu, stated,

"Students that come from the Caribbean often struggle with the Dutch language, which creates uncertainty among them. Frequently, students end up dropping out of school."

Han Huntu has two main goals, which in-

clude developing new ways to improve the guidance for these students and developing creative processes to get Dutch-Caribbean students more involved. According to Han Huntu's Facebook page, the association does this by forming a social network, and connecting students to each other by a, "Buddy System."

STRUCTURE

Han Huntu does not have a formal structure. The members want to make the association as appealing as possible to everyone that is currently attending HAN. This means that the association does not have a board, including a president, a vice-president, etc. Instead, the key members are called committee leaders and the remaining members are called committee members.

Joining the association is probably one of the easiest things to do; anyone that is from one of the Dutch-Caribbean islands and is studying at HAN is free to become a member. This is thanks to Han Huntu's easy, and informal structure that allows it to welcome anyone and everyone. One of the key benefits of not having a formal structure is that members are free to develop new ideas, without having to ask a number of people for permission first. Nevertheless, the project coordinator, Ank Greijmans, is expected to hand in a detailed report stating the exact activities that were conducted throughout the year.

FROM STUDENTS TO TEACHERS

The student association is not only for students. That's right – it's also for the educators! Han Huntu strives to make teachers more aware of the differences in cultures of students from the Caribbean, with the goal of helping Dutch-Caribbean students feel more comfortable in their move to the Netherlands. When asked about the association's role if a member encountered themselves in a school-related issue, the members replied,

"Han Huntu exists to provide guidance and support, thus in this situation, we will most probably offer the concerned student advice, but we will not intervene and defend the student."

JOIN HAN HUNTU

If you're planning to study at the Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen, then joining Han Huntu is a must! Han Huntu organizes social and educational activities at least once a month, and your presence could make a difference. You'll have the opportunity to connect with hundreds of other students from the Caribbean and creating long-lasting friendships. According to the current committee leaders of Han Huntu, the cities of Nijmegen and Arnhem are perfect for those coming from the Caribbean,

"They're not too small and they're not overcrowded; they're just perfect, making you feel like home away from home."

For more information, visit their Facebook page here or you could contact the project coordinator of Han Huntu: Ank Greijmans, at ank.greijmans@han.nl

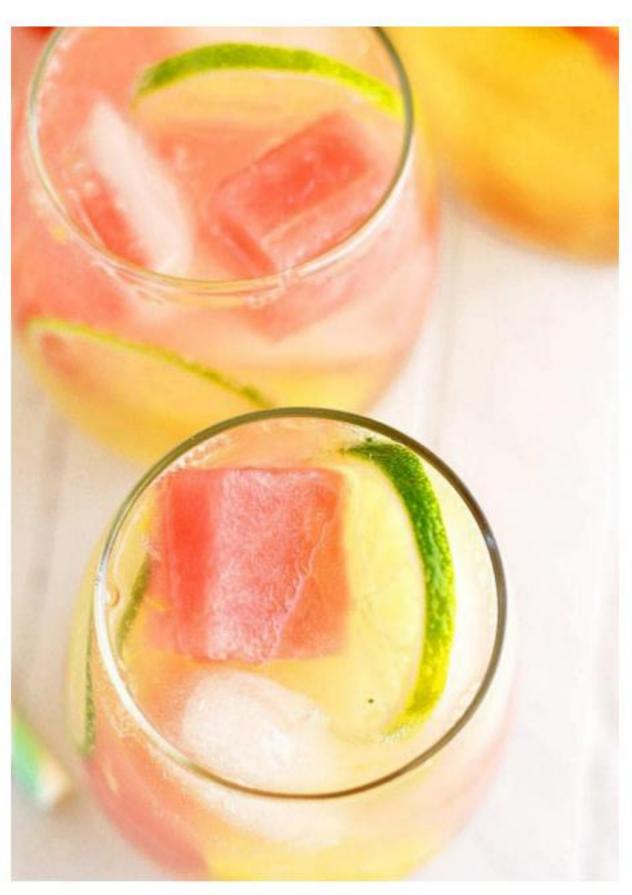




LET'S HAVE A DRINK

t's summer time, what could be more refreshing than a "Summer sangria with watermelon and Pineapple?"

This easy, refreshing and tasteful summer sangria with watermelon and pineapple is a fun twist on sangria that utilizes fresh summer ingredients for the season!





INGREDIENTS:

- 1 bottle Moscato wine (750 ml)
- 1/2 C brandy
- 1 lime, thinly sliced
- 10pcs Watermelon, cubed and cold
- 10pcs Sweet Pineapple, cubed and cold
- · Lemon lime soda, for serving
- Ice cubes

Preparation: 10 min • Total Time: 10 minutes • Serves: 4-6

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Pour the wine and brandy into a pitcher and stir to combine. Add the sliced lime, watermelon and pineapple to the mix.
- To serve, place some of the fruit in a glass with ice. Pour the sangria over the ice and top with lemon lime soda.

RECIPE NOTES:

The sangria can be made up to 2 hours before serving or served immediately.





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INFORMATION

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ing in Amsterdam, was asked by one of his friends to join his band as the lead singer, "I decided to join. From that very second everyone just wanted to see me and this was the moment I actually realized that yeah, I do have a good voice."

Liam was an active member of the band until the age of seventeen because he moved back to Aruba. Unfortunately, everything fell apart with his band-mates after he returned to the island due to lack of communication. In Aruba, Liam was back to square one - he didn't know anyone, and so he didn't practice his art, "Nobody knew who I was and I was very, very shy - I don't like singing in front of people just like that."

Fortunately for Liam, a band, "Live Expressions," was playing in the canteen of Colegio E.P.I. Aruba, Liam's school at the time, which is where the band recognized Liam as a singer. He took the shot and performed songs from Maroon 5. Luckily, everyone liked him, and from that very moment, he gained the confidence to perform with Live Expressions.



YOU KNOW, WHEN IT COMES TO COMPETITIONS, I WANT TO WIN, I DON T WANT TO BE HUMBLE ABOUT IT, I JUST WANT TO WIN!

myself, it'd be best if I at least try." When it

comes to competitions, Liam does not play

around! From the moment his name was on

the sign-up sheet, it was all about winning,

Winning Liam did! When asked whether he expected anything else besides the financial reward, Liam replied, "Not really. Some musicians on the island (singers, songwriters, music producers) contacted me after the competition for potential music collaboration, but I was very careful and picky to decide who to work with." Unfortunately, the talent competition did not return the following year, and it is still unclear whether it will ever return, "I hoped for so much, because I truly believed that the youth of Aruba could benefit from such competition. It allows locals to feel like a, "Pop Star," at least for a day."

After winning the competition, Liam wrote and released his first original sin-

gle titled, "First place," produced by Nigel Hoek, "Nigel approached me first, because I already knew him for quite some time. I think he's a genius when it comes to producing music." The song was an instant hit in Aruba and people went absolutely crazy on social media. Unsurprisingly, more local producers contacted Liam for music collaborations and locals started recognizing him on the streets.



THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE...

Liam grew up in a very humble household. The relationship between him and his parents had been anything but perfect throughout the years. However, he acknowledges that it has certainly improved. Liam never received compliments from his parents on his passion for music, partly because he never truly liked singing in front of them,

> "Even after I won Aruba's got talent, my parents did not openly admit that they were proud of me, simply because that is not something they would really do."



HIS RELATIONSHIP STATUS...

Liam is once again single. That's right ladies, SINGLE – but not on the market! "I am going to the gym now and practicing a lot more on my guitar; slowly shifting my focus back on music." Liam admits that even though he is single, he is not ready for a romantic relationship anytime soon, since school is currently his top priority, "I am just trying to get myself together and learn more about myself every day. Hopefully, I will be able to share my music soon with the world again."

HOW IS BEING SINGLE FOR YOU?

I never expected to be alone because I never was, I always had good people around. Generally speaking, I'm really happy at the moment. I am proud to be living on my own in the Netherlands; I am much more independent now. I can basically follow my dreams here – I can do whatever I want!



HIS FUTURE...

Liam hopes to be discovered one day and have his songs played worldwide. Like many other musicians, he also hopes to be able to build a life through the creation and exploration of music. Yes, ladies, even though he is single, Liam's priority for the next three years is to get out there and explore the music scene, discover new artists, and interact with people that will hopefully able to help him achieve his musical dreams.

As for new music? You can officially stop holding your breath now, because he will be releasing for the first time an original Extended Play record [EP] in fall of 2017 – and yes you heard it here first!

That's right – Liam is traveling back to Aruba this summer to complete his first EP,

I WILL BE FOCUSING REALLY HARD ON MUSIC THIS YEAR AND TRY TO RELEASE AS MUCH MATE RIAL AS POSSIBLE. I AM PRETTY BEHIND WITH CERTAIN THINGS, SO I BELIEVE THAT NOW IS TRULY THE TIME TO GET SHIT DONE.



andy M. Leijenaar is a young adult who, at just the age of twenty-five, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management obtained at the University of Central Florida: Rosen College of Hospitality [UCF] and a Master of Arts degree in Advertising and Marketing Communications obtained from Webster University.

She is the owner and founder of Fantastique, a Facebook handmade Arts &

Crafts business, launched in October 2015. In April of 2017, after three years of relationship, Mandy got engaged to her Prince Charming – Stefan Werleman. Currently, Mandy is the Marketing and Communication Manager at Refineria di Aruba N.V. [Aruba's Refinery]

In this exclusive interview for Phryme Magazine, Mandy opens up about her student experience in both Orlando, Florida and the Netherlands.

I reminded myself that UCF was my first choice and, in the end, was able to accomplish my dream of studying in USA.

How did you decide to study in Orlando?

I'd like to think that it chose me [laughs]. I was completely planning to study in the Netherlands because most of my friends and family lived there.

Why you didn't go to the Netherlands?

I got an interview in the Netherlands at the Hotel School in The Hague, which I had my heart set on. Unfortunately, I got denied because, according to them, I was too young. I decided to try again at Stenden University in Leeuwarden and I got accepted! But, I feared going so far away; I mean let's be real – Leeuwarden is the last train stop on your way to the end of civilization [laughs].

How did you end up studying at UCF?

My neighbor convinced me to go with her to the US and, three weeks before moving, I changed my mind and initiated the process to study in the US.

How was your preparation process like?

It was a very long and horrible process; nobody at the department of education was willing to help or give me accurate information. I ended up going to Seminole State College for my first semester. I already had an Associate degree, so I wasn't supposed to be there. However, it was a good introduction to the American school system.

How is USA different compared to Aruba?

The culture; I would greet everyone in the hallway and I rarely got greeted back. The food; I LOVE junk food and I didn't have the budget to eat healthy nor did I want to cook. Also, the distance – everything was far; the drive to school was forty-five minutes. Now, everything is close-by for me!

What are some of your unforgettable college experiences in the US?

The list is endless! I got to network with people from all around the world. I traveled, met new friends, got my heart broken and got to know my future husband. I went to music festivals and concerts, spent spring break in Daytona, Thanksgiving in New York, celebrated 4th of July, tailgated, experienced the world-cup in the USA and various other college activities. All of this led to my graduation day, my ultimate accomplishment, which wasn't possible if I didn't have amazing and supportive parents, friends, family and the professors and advisors at school.

Why did you decide to pursue an online Master's education?

I did this for myself; it was always a life plan. I chose an online Master's education because I didn't want to have a long-distance relationship anymore.

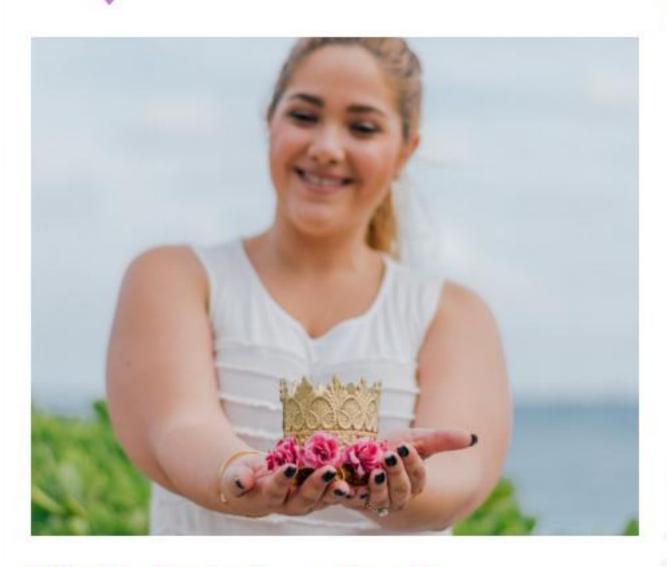
Would you advise students to pursue a Master's education?

It depends on their preference, money and time. Primarily, YES! It's a deeper knowledge in their field of study; it makes you question your material on another level. However, I don't think it's highly necessary for Aruba; I think it scares employers away because of higher wages and over-qualified employees but if you do it, do it for yourself – not for a raise at your job.

How was pursuing an online education?

My online experience was amazing! It was exactly what I was looking for – flexibility. But, at the same time, you have to have a lot of discipline.

"I was bored, in and out of jobs and I was tired of asking my parents for allowance."



What is Fantastique about?

Fantastique is an online Facebook store born from years of passion for Arts and Crafts. I studied online and, at the time, it served as both a job and hobby; I was able to get extra income.

Why did you decide to create accessories for the public?

I wanted to create something of my own that was different. At the time, there weren't any stores that created customized accessories and party supplies. People always approach me to organize events for them and to customize the accessories; party supplies was a part of that.

Why the name Fantastique?

It's two words combined in one: Fantasy + Boutique = Fantastique. I'd like to believe that I am very good at Arts and Crafts, thus using my imagination to create various art pieces.

How do you envision Fantastique?

I'd like to make a Party Planning Company out of it. Initially, that's what I've always wanted to do. So maybe, I will have my own events company with customized accessories in the near future, be pending!

How and when did you meet Stefan?

It wasn't that good; I was going through a men-hating phase because I had just gotten out of this very weird, and not real, relationship. I met Stefan while I was in the pool at my friends' house. I overheard him complain to my friend about his then-relationship and, because I hate when men nag like that, I got out of the pool and started to yell at him. After a month, he had broken up with his then-girlfriend and at the end of 2013, he would reply to my Tweets or ReTweet me. That's basically how we started to communicate.

What is a challenge you two have faced in your relationship?

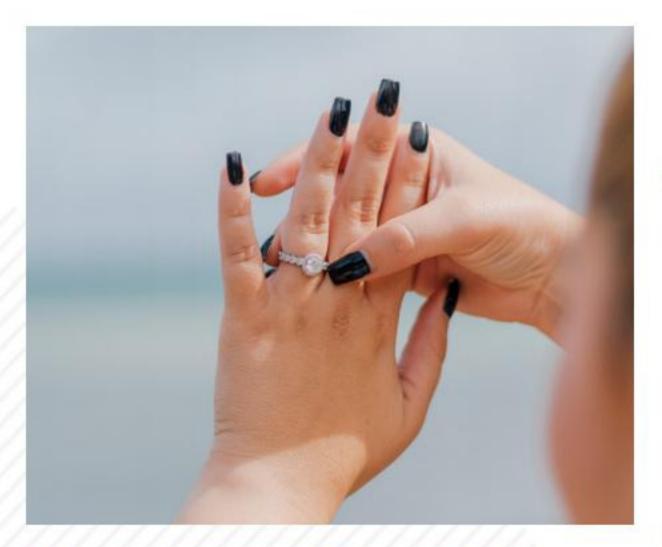
One of them was the distance; we've always had a long-distance relationship. I have bad experience with a previous long-distance relationship; so I always had trust issues. It was hard.

How did you overcome that challenge?

The core of every relationship is trust; I trust him and I know he trusts me. Trusting each other is what made everything work. We just clicked, we used to travel back and forth a lot – which was always the highlight of my month. [smiles and blushes]

Did you expect the proposal?

I actually did and didn't. We chose the ring together because my face doesn't have a filter and he wanted me to have a ring I really loved. However, I expected him to propose a month later at my graduation.



When can we expect the wedding?

We haven't really set a date yet, but I think in 2019. That way we can enjoy our engagement together, have time to prepare for the wedding and save money; which is necessary if you would like to have a nice wedding. [laughs]

What are your future couple plans?

We are busy with the plans for our house! That should be ready at the end of this year. Other than that, we'd like to travel all around the world, or better said, where our budget takes us. Kids are also in those plans, but not for now.

How is life like now for you?

I don't have a lot of time after work, but I still enjoy doing Fantastique! I started to work out again and have been trying to live a healthier life. I often visit my recently married friends and those who have kids; I enjoy spending time with them. I have a gorgeous goddaughter, whom I try to spoil whenever possible, and I volunteer when the opportunity presents itself. Finally, I assist my father's company with a few marketing activities.

What is a quote you live by and why?

This may sound cliché but, it's a lyric by Justin Bieber, "Never say never." Be-

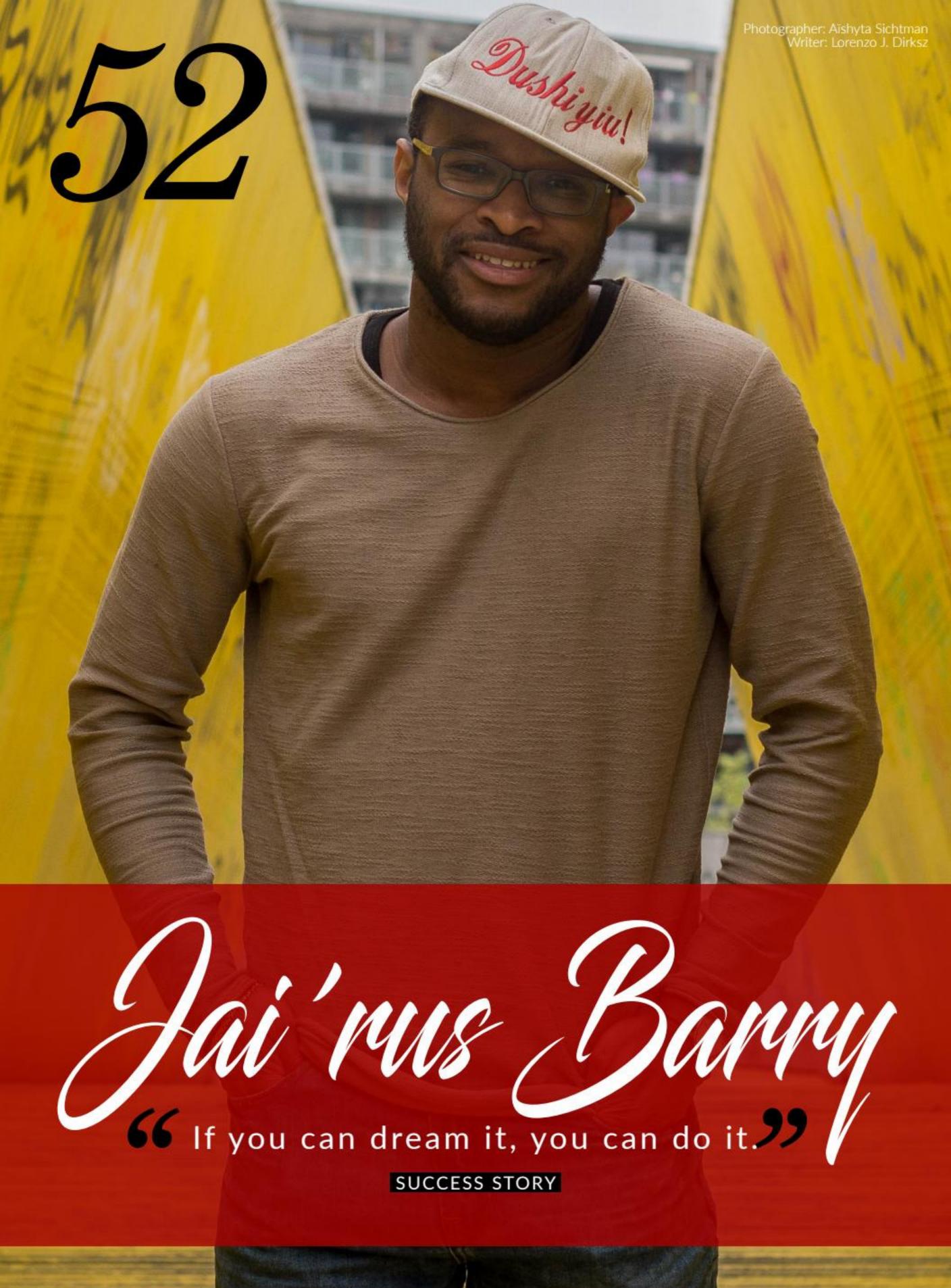
cause anything is possible in this life; I live by this lyric because I've done things I said I'd never do.

What advice do you have for students?

I'd say to follow your dreams because anything is possible, to ask a lot of questions and to become informed. Ask for advice and be prepared to struggle – nothing worth waiting for comes easy. Work hard but enjoy life at the same time and join campus clubs!



"I was never one to live a normal and 8-to-5 life. I think the future holds amazing adventures yet to come; a never-ending book of opportunities still awaits."



orn in Aruba in 1988, Jai'rus Barry is a graduate of Social Work [Maatschappelijk Werk en Dienstverleningand] from the InHolland University of Applied Science. He is currently the Youth Coach and Caseload Manager at the State Government of Rotterdam, the Netherlands where he guides youngsters under the age of twenty-seven to achieve their goals and increase their education and work opportunities.

BABY JAI'RUS...

Jai'rus was born in Aruba and raised in San Nicolas, "The Village," to be more specific, a small neighborhood described by him as a place where everyone knew each other, "The village was a community that has shaped the person I am today." While



most of the community was into sports, Jai'rus kept himself busy by actively volunteering at a local Art Gallery Museum until the age of thirteen. Additionally, was also enthusiastically involved in the church of his local neighborhood, including of his local school where he would frequently help with the launch of community initiatives. Therefore, he had developed a strong passion for organizational skills.

TEENAGE JAI'RUS...

Jai'rus received the opportunity to participate in the first secondary school election organized by the Youth Parliament of Aruba in 2003. Jai'rus participated and successfully went on winning the election; which granted him the permission to join the organization besides him being only thirteen years of age. Jai'rus had spent a total of six years, 2003 - 2009, as one of the most active members the Youth Parliament of Aruba ever had. Some of his biggest achievements include, "Mi Futuro," a project that aimed at raising environmental awareness and, "Kibrando Gritonan Silencioso," which helped raising awareness of child abuse in Aruba.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE THEN 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Because I was so active in different organizations from a very early age, the advice to myself would be to relax a bit more and to enjoy the small things. I would also advise myself to spend more time with my friends.

JAI'RUS IN THE NETHERLANDS...

In July of 2009, Jai'rus took an important step when he bought his one-way ticket and embarked on the nine-hour flight to start a completely new journey. Although moving to the Netherlands is a dream for many students, it wasn't for Jai'rus as he says, "My siblings lived in the Netherlands but I had no plans to go study abroad. At

Iwas unemployed for about six months after finishing my studies, as most places were looking for someone with experience.



a certain point I was looking for the possibility to do my studies in Aruba, but unfortunately I couldn't find anything related to social studies." Moving to the Netherlands was easy for Jai'rus because he had family living there. However, a major challenge for him was the Dutch language. According to him, the level of Dutch he had received in Aruba was relatively low compared to the Dutch spoken in the Netherlands. Luckily, teachers sometimes allowed him to phrase something in English instead of Dutch. As time flew by, the bond Jai'rus had with his classmates grew stronger and now he considers them family.

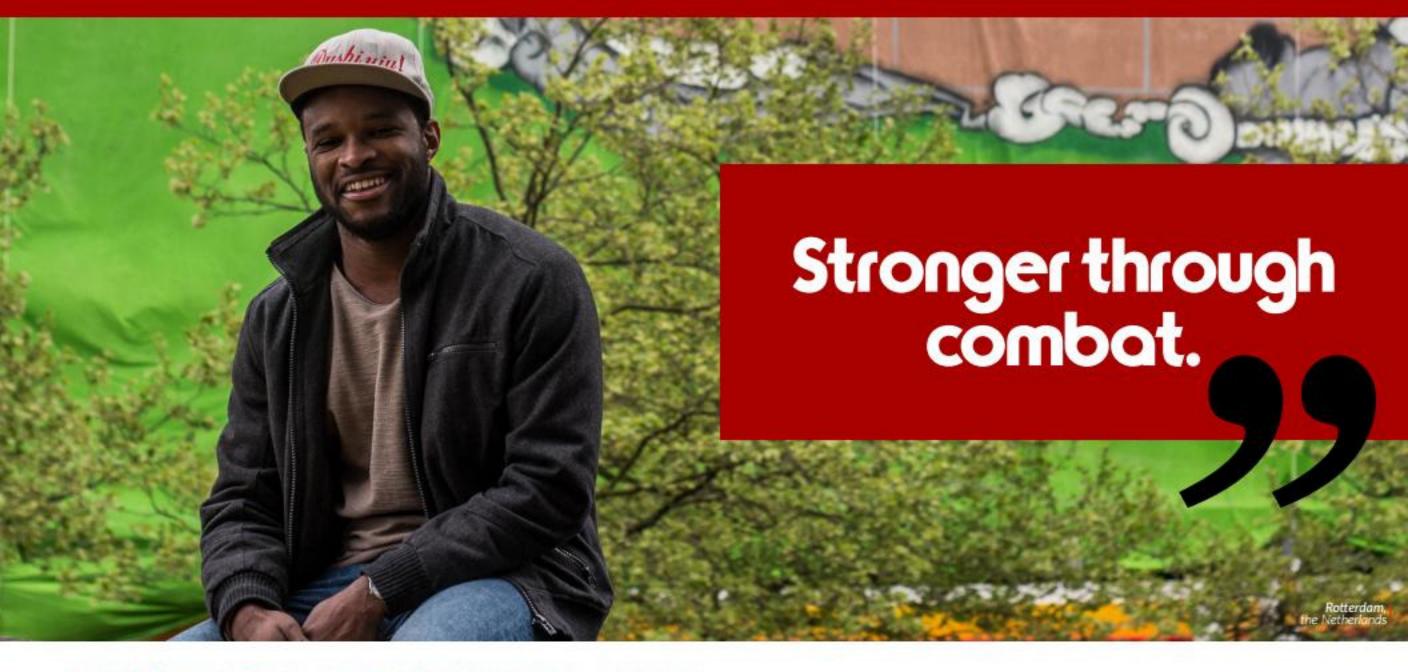
"I wanted to fully experience The Netherlands and be a part of both communities. Most of my classmates were Dutch and they eventually became my second family; they took good care of me and helped me with whatever I needed."

JAI'RUS, THE GRADUATE...

After his graduation in 2014, Jai'rus had one focus: to get his ideal job; where he could apply what he had learned and put his new skill-set into practice. However, finding the, "Ideal Job," was anything but easy for Jai'rus!

Instead of staying home doing nothing, Jai'rus decided to take an internship at the State Government of Rotterdam, "I took the internship to network and make the necessary connections with those who worked in my field. I also had a part-time job in order to pay my rent."

Jai'rus was an intern for six months where he worked on a project that was focused on teenage mothers. Luckily, a new position had opened up just before he finished his internship. Since Jai'rus' colleagues liked him so much, they encouraged him to apply and, without a doubt, he was hired.



WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU AT THE MOMENT?

Work starts at 8:00am. I meet and converse with three youngsters. It's my duty to analyze them; whether they have various problems such as mental, physically, spiritually etc. Afterwards, I try my outmost best to understand what it is they need; a job, motivation or support. In the afternoon I switch to my, "Caseload Manager," role where it's my duty to ensure that the youngsters have the necessary recourses to be able to solve their problems.

JAI'RUS TODAY...

Although Jai'rus may have a busy working schedule, he enjoys traveling as often as possible, meeting new people and visiting places he had only seen on television as a child,

"The first time I went to Venice, I couldn't believe that I was there; it exceeded everything beyond my expectations. I like going to different cities to explore, even if it's for just one weekend."

Today, he describes himself as a social entrepreneur, as he likes being with people,

enjoying life and partying. However, he is in no rush to move back home as he holds a secure job at the State Government of Rotterdam. While he is still young, he plans to live, work and gain as much experience as possible in the Netherlands.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS WHO DECIDE TO MOVE TO THE NETHERLANDS?

Put away your pride and don't be afraid to seek help from people living in the Netherlands, who already know how the system works and can double check anything for you.

Jai'rus, who has been raised by just his mother in Aruba, is a living prove that anything in life is possible. At the age of just twenty-nine, Jai'rus Barry holds a bachelor's degree in Social Work and a position at the State Government of Rotterdam where he holds a significant role in the lives of many people, especially youngsters.

Jai'rus is proud of the achievements he was able to make during his time in Aruba. Now, he is determined to achieve more in the Netherlands. It's safe to say that Jai'rus is unstoppable!



"Exclusively on expatriate students." -